

Scales

Scales must be for legal trade and made for commercial use. A legal-for-trade scale will be marked with:

- A serial number
- A model number
- Class III designation on the identification plate or seal.
- All scales must have an NTEP (National Type Evaluation Program) certificate of conformance. This is all scales manufactured after July 1, 2003.

Scales suitable for farmers markets will have a 1/2 ounce or smaller or .01 pound or smaller increment.

Scales marked "Not Legal for Trade" are not acceptable. Baby scales or kitchen scales are two types of scales that are not legal.

It is the responsibility of the scale owner to have the device inspected and maintain the accuracy of the scale. Scales should be inspected annually. Farmers' markets or direct markets should contact Tom Bloemer with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture at (502) 573-0282 to schedule an inspection of their scales. Please group your inspections together. For instance, a farmers' market should have only one scheduled visit for all of your members to be inspected at the same time. All scales can be brought to a central location, such as the market, an Extension office, etc. and be tested at one time before the season starts.

It is illegal to conduct business in the state with an unapproved scale. Inspectors from KDA's Division of Regulation and Inspection are charged with ensuring that this law is enforced. These inspectors can and will shut a vendor down for the use of illegal scales.

MARKETING TIPS: Since approved scales can run upwards of \$250, some markets have successfully bought and shared scales between vendors. Martin County is one of these markets. Otherwise, vendors are encouraged to sell by volume rather than weight. That is, sell by the box or bag or count.

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